

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 05331 211115Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5331

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, IS, US
SUBJECT: HULL INCIDENT; CONGEN AND VOLAG ACTIVITIES ON THE WEST BANK

REF: A) TEL AVIV 5292, B) TEL AVIV 5253

1. IN THE COURSE OF A MEETING APRIL 20 WITH DAYAN, SUBJECT OF EVICTION OF VICE CONSUL HULL FROM HARIS SETTLEMENT CAME UP. DAYAN NOTED THAT HIS AIDE, ELI RUBENSTEIN, HAD RECEIVED MY LETTER EXPLAINING THE DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT. DAYAN SAID THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN THE LETTER BUT RUBENSTEIN FELT THAT OUR EXPLANATION IN IT MADE THE INCIDENT LOOK WORSE. HOWEVER, DAYAN STATED THAT AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED THE SUBJECT WAS CLOSED. IN ADDITION, HE WAS SENDING A COPY OF THE LETTER TO BOTH THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE WITH A COVER MEMO TO THE EFFECT THAT HE CONSIDERED THE SUBJECT CLOSED AND RECOMMENDING THE SAME VIEW TO THEM.

2. I TOOK DAYAN'S RAISING THE ISSUE AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CRITICIZE THE LEADK OF THE STORY TO THE MEDIA. I SAID THAT I WAS TAKEN ABACK BY THE APPEARANCE SIMULTANEOUSLY IN ALMOST EVERY NEWSPAPER AND TV/RADIO OF
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STORIES OBVIOUSLY BASED ON THE MILITARY GOVERNMENTS REPORT ON THE INCIDENT WHICH DAYAN HAD READ TO ME ON APRIL 14. I SUGGESTED THAT APPARENTLY SOMEONE IN THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT DID NOT LIKE "SNOOPING AMERICANS" AND WAS TRYING TO CAUSE US TROUBLE. DAYAN REPLIED THAT HE WAS NOT AND STILL WASN'T PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE INCIDENT. I THEN BEGAN READING EXCERPT OF THE

MAARIV EDITORIAL MENTIONED IN REF AND A SUGGESTED THAT SOMEONE WAS CLEARLY TRYING TO MAKE MUCH MORE OUT OF THIS INCIDENT THAN IT DESERVED. DAYAN AGAIN RESPONDED THAT AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED IT SHOULD BE FORGOTTEN.

3. EVRON THEN INTERJECTED THAT THE CONGEN'S ACTIVITIES HAD ALWAYS BEEN A PROBLEM. HE ADDED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY RECEIVED NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS WHICH IT DID NOT CONVEY TO US; HE SPECIFICALLY NOTED COMPLAINTS ABOUT ANERA AND THE QUAKERS. I INTERRUPTED HIM TO POINT OUT THAT NEITHER ANERA NOR THE QUAKERS WERE USG ORGANIZATIONS. EVRON COUNTERED THAT THIS IS THE REASON THE ACTIVITIES OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS HAD NOT BEEN RAISED WITH ME. HOWEVER, THERE WERE ALSO "CONSTANT COMPLAINTS" ABOUT "SOME MEMBERS OF THE CONGEN STAFF GOING ABOUT THEIR JOB IN A LESS THAN ELEGANT FASHION" AND "GOING BEYOND ACCEPTABLE BOUNDS." EVRON SAID THAT HE HAD TRIED TO AVOID BRINGING UP THE PROBLEM OF THE JERUSALEM CONGEN, BUT SUGGESTED THAT THEY SHOULD BE MORE CIRCUMSPECT IN THEIR ACTIVITIES IN THE FUTURE.

4. I REPLIED THAT I HAD DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT WITH CONSUL GENERAL NEWLIN IN THE WAKE OF THE HULL INCIDENT AND I WAS CERTAIN HE AND HIS STAFF INTEND TO CARRY OUT THEIR ACTIVITIES IN AN APPROPRIATE FASHION. HOWEVER, I STRESSED THAT THEY DID HAVE A JOB TO DO; HE AGREED.
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LEWIS

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